

There is another Lantos legacy. As a parent of 2 daughters, he took great pride in their 17 incredible grandchildren, all of whom are fulfilling the highest expectations of their grandfather. Every year the Lantos Christmas card displayed a growing family of beautiful and gifted children who obviously gave them considerable pride and joy.

In the Congress, Tom Lantos had no peers. He was respected by leaders of both political parties and the undisputed authority on foreign policy. Most newly elected Congressmen avoid the Foreign Affairs Committee because there is little that can help in their constituencies, but for Tom Lantos it was always about foreign relations. Indeed he ranks, alongside Lee Hamilton, as one of the two finest chairmen who ever presided over the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

For those who had the privilege of knowing Tom Lantos, there is even more legacy. His eloquence and charm, personal loyalty to family and friends, his diplomatic grace in meeting world leaders, left one with the impression of being near a truly great leader and genuine statesman of the world. It was a privilege to have known Tom Lantos.

INTRODUCING TECHNOLOGIES FOR RESTORING USERS' SECURITY AND TRUST (TRUST) IN HEALTH INFORMATION ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, the development of a nationwide interoperable health information infrastructure holds tremendous promise for improving patient care, reducing medical errors and lowering costs. Today's health care system needs to be transformed to improve health care quality, safety and affordability, and interoperable health information networks can play an important role in this transformation.

At the same time, without sufficient privacy and security safeguards, such electronic systems could turn the dream of integrated, seamless health IT networks into a nightmare for consumers, reducing the likelihood that patients and providers will embrace and utilize such systems. If we fail to require strong privacy and security standards now, during the early stages of development of nationwide interoperable health IT systems, we run the risk that Americans' medical secrets will be extremely vulnerable to being lost or stolen from these systems, whose weak privacy and security safeguards will be an open invitation to identity thieves, fraudsters and others seeking unauthorized access.

The great Irish poet William Butler Yeats famously wrote that "In dreams begins responsibility." The dream of a nationwide, seamless, effective health IT infrastructure certainly is enticing. Let us hope that we can realize this dream in the future. Today Congress has a responsibility to ensure that patients' personal medical secrets are not put at risk in the process.

According to a report released last year by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, has taken some steps to identify solutions for protecting patient privacy in health IT systems, but HHS has "not yet defined an overall approach for integrating its

various privacy-related initiatives and addressing key privacy principles, nor has it defined milestones for integrating the results of these activities." (GAO-07-400T) Over the past 3 years, repeated breaches of electronic systems containing Americans' Social Security numbers, addresses and other sensitive personal information have reinforced the need for strong data safeguards for Americans' medical records. According to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a non-profit consumer organization, more than 218 million data records of U.S. residents have been exposed due to security breaches since January 2005.

I am pleased that Representative RAHM EMANUEL is joining me in introducing the Technologies for Restoring Users' Security and Trust, TRUST, in Health Information Act. The TRUST Health Information Act promotes development of a nationwide interoperable health IT infrastructure that improves patient care, reduces costs and protects the privacy and security of Americans' personal medical information. The Trust Act contains provisions to encourage the development of health IT networks through grants and standard-setting processes while also ensuring that patients' medical records will be protected by strong privacy and security safeguards. For example, the TRUST Act:

Empowers patients to keep their medical records out of health IT databases unless they first give their consent;

Requires patients to be notified if the systems that contain their health information is breached and their information is exposed;

Mandates the use of data security safeguards such as encryption and other technologies that render the information unreadable to individuals who are not authorized to access it;

Authorizes grant funding to enable the purchase and enhance the use of qualified health IT systems; and

Establishes a public-private partnership to make recommendations concerning health IT standards, criteria for the electronic exchange of personal health information and related purposes to encourage the creation of a nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure.

Patient privacy and security protections are enablers of, not impediments to, successful nationwide interoperable health IT systems. Only after patients have confidence in these protections will they trust their sensitive medical information to such systems.

The Trust Act is supported by Patient Privacy Rights, Microsoft Corporation, the American Psychoanalytic Association, American Association of Practicing Psychiatrists and the National Association of Social Workers.

RECOGNIZING JAMES BENJAMIN FARMER

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Benjamin Farmer, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 6,

and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. For his Eagle Scout Project, Benjamin renovated a room that now serves as a Sunday School Classroom at First Baptist Church in Kinston, NC.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Benjamin Farmer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. FRANKS. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this body with another Sunset Memorial.

It is February 14, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,806 days since the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the declaration, not the casual notion, but the declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed

by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been giving them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,806 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that this Nation is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 14, 2008—12,806 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, as part of the Gulf Security Dialogue between the Gulf States and the United States, the President has proposed the commercial sale of a number of significant U.S.-produced weapon systems that the President believes will contribute to U.S. national security in the Gulf Region.

There has been a good deal of controversy surrounding these proposed arms sales included in the Gulf Security Dialogue, and, in particular, the sale of Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) to Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has taken the reported concerns seriously. The Committee has held four highly classified briefings on the Gulf Security Dialogue. As part of this ongoing dialogue, Chairman Lantos asked the Secretary of State to provide to the Committee, in writing, additional assurances that can be released publicly that this sale will not threaten our interests or those of our friends in the region. Chairman Lantos received a letter with these assurances from the Secretary of State.

Madam Speaker, as the Acting Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I ask that this letter be printed in full in the RECORD so that

all of our colleagues in the Congress can be aware of the assurances which the Committee has received.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2008.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you regarding the proposed sale of Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) to Saudi Arabia under the rubric of the Gulf Security Dialogue. Over the last year, we have consulted closely with Congress and our partners in the region on the proposed sale. This sale is important to U.S. national interests in the Gulf region. It will strengthen our relationship with Saudi Arabia and will enhance regional security and stability.

The United States has offered for sale a number of military goods to friendly governments in the region to support U.S. interests. In preparing these sales, we have worked closely with our friends in the region to ensure the proposed transfers strengthen stability and security regarding potential challenges from Iran or other threats in the region. We have consulted closely about this sale with Israel and remain committed to the preservation of Israel's qualitative military edge. I can assure you that the sale of JDAMs to Saudi Arabia will not affect Israel's qualitative military edge. The Government of Israel understands the reasons for this sale and does not object to it.

We are mindful of the sensitivity of some of the technology being transferred, and will continue to keep Congress informed on the details of this sale, particularly of any changes in the arrangements we have briefed the committee. We have had, and will continue to have, thorough discussions with the Government of Saudi Arabia regarding its obligations resulting from this sale. As a result of these discussions, we are confident that the Government of Saudi Arabia will undertake all necessary measures to secure these weapons and to assure their use only in ways which we support. In particular, the Government of Saudi Arabia will provide adequate security for the JDAMs such that these weapons will not fall into the hands of other nations or groups. Moreover, the Government of Saudi Arabia will ensure that these weapons will not be used against U.S. forces or the forces of U.S. allies.

I hope this resolves any concerns that might exist about this sale. We would be happy to discuss further with you, if you desire. We look forward to working with you to secure the advancement of U.S. interests in the Gulf region.

Sincerely,

CONDOLEEZZA RICE.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform you that I was unavoidably detained in my district over the past few days to come to the floor of the House of Representatives to cast my vote on certain rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

I would have voted "aye" for rollcall Nos. 43 through 45, rollcall Nos. 48 through 51, and rollcall Nos. 53 through 57.

I would have voted "nay" for rollcall Nos. 46, 47, 52.

REMEMBERING RAFIQ HARIRI AND THE IMPORTANCE OF LEBANON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in a mixture of sadness and outrage to commemorate the third anniversary of Rafiq Hariri's assassination. Sadness because the former Prime Minister, a man of vision and courage, was cut down in his prime as he stood up for the idea of a Lebanon as a nation free from external control, a sovereign, united and independent Lebanon that would regain its rightful place among the nations of the Middle East.

Three years ago a massive car bomb deprived the Hariri family of a husband and father and deprived the Lebanese people of a leader. It would prove to be the first in a dozen political assassinations that have plagued that nation for the last three years orchestrated by the enemies of a free and democratic Lebanon.

And it is this fact, Madam Speaker that fills me with outrage and should fill all our colleagues with outrage as well. Lebanon's future continues to be strangled by Iran and Syria whose agents Hezbollah, Amal and Michel Aoun, try to take through violence and intimidation what they cannot achieve at the ballot box. The slow strangulation of the state has left Lebanon without a President for almost 3 months, paralyzing the nation and raising the specter of renewed civil war.

On the third anniversary of former Prime Minister Hariri's murder, the international community must renew its commitment to the people of Lebanon and again speak out against the campaign of naked aggression that has left the March 14 movement only two parliamentarians away from losing their hard won majority. We must renew our demand that Damascus and Tehran lift their boots off Lebanon's neck. And we must ensure that justice is done in the case of Rafiq Hariri and all the other victims of the 3 year campaign to deny Lebanon its rightful place among free and independent nations. Toward that end, the United States and the rest of the international community must make it crystal clear to Syria that the Special Tribunal established by the United Nations Security Council to investigate the terrorist attack on February 14, 2005, is not a bargaining chip to be traded away. The interests of justice in this case far outweigh any concession that the government of Syria might hope to offer. The guilty must be held accountable for their crimes.

The international community has spoken frequently and eloquently through United Nations Security Council resolutions in support of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon, and has demanded the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon. These goals and this unity of purpose must not be abandoned or allowed to wither either from self-interest or distraction. The enemies of Lebanon believe they have time on their side—that they merely need to wait us out and Lebanon will once again be theirs to control.

The conflict in Lebanon is not a sideshow in the Middle East, it is the main event. Lebanon